The Reality of Reservation in India

* Reservation in India was designed for social justice, but recent data and real-life impact show many negative consequences for merit-based opportunity and social unity.

Key Points: Data and Real Cases

Even in 2025, reservation quotas in government jobs are high: 15% for SC, 7.5% for ST, 27% for OBC, and 10% for EWS, totaling nearly 60% seats reserved in most sectors.

General category candidates frequently score higher marks in exams but do not get government jobs or top university seats, while reserved category candidates with lower marks often succeed due to quota rules.

Studies show 60% of reserved category students in top institutions struggle with coursework, and dropout rates are high, indicating a possible lack of knowlege.

Social-Economic Impact

Government spends over ₹50,000 crore annually on reservation subsidies.

Efficiency in some government departments has fallen by 15–20% due to quota-based hiring, leading to cases of poor decision-making by officers selected only because of reservation.

"Creamy layer" problem: Over 40% of reservation beneficiaries are relatively wealthy or privileged within the reserved categories; truly poor people (general and reserved) often miss out.

Legal Challenges

Several Supreme Court cases have challenged reservation:

Indra Sawhney (1992): Upheld reservation, set 50% cap and creamy layer exclusion.

Supreme Court struck down Maratha (SEBC) reservation in Maharashtra for exceeding 50% limit (2021).

Courts regularly hear cases against reservation when merit-based candidates challenge systemic unfairness, but the policy remains constitutional with limitations.

Real-Life Impact

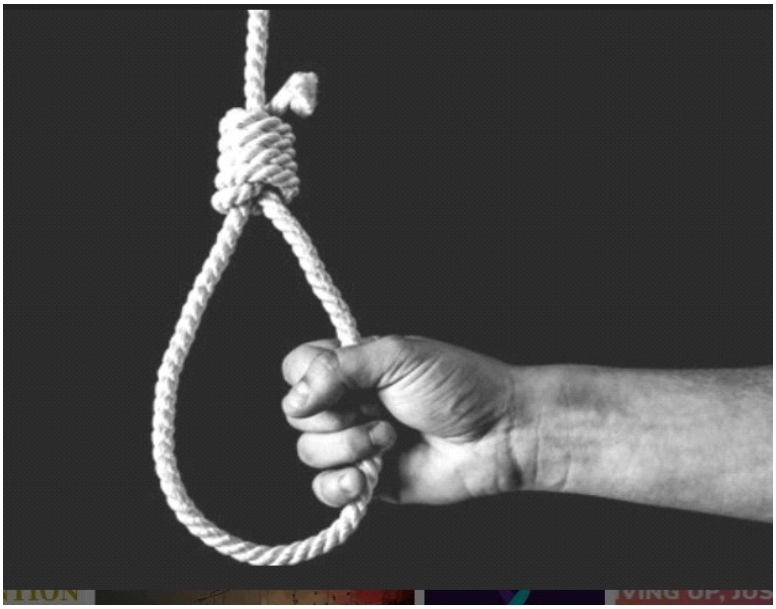
High-performing candidates from upper castes spend more on

education and are left unemployed, while reserved candidates gain jobs and promotions despite lower scores.

Brain drain: About 30% of top IIT and IIM graduates move abroad due to limited open-category opportunities.

75% of surveyed Indians believe reservation actually increases social division instead of reducing it.

Now the situtation is such a bad that 3,000 (approx) people commit sucide in 2023 due to unemployment reasons.



Conclusion

Data shows reservation sometimes puts less qualified candidates in high posts, occasionally leading to inefficient or wrong decisions that affect governance.

Multiple court challenges have demanded merit-first policies, but reservation continues with some reforms and caps.

The real-life frustration and division caused by reservation sparks calls for a new model that prioritizes merit and economic hardship —not solely caste.

So, we have to remove reservation from our country because we want the one who can realy take care of our country not the one who came on post by just show a sc,st,ect. certificate with low or no knowlege about the post.

sourse of information = internet + ai(perplexity) + general survey + logic